

Application Serial No. 09/996,977
Amendment dated: October 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated May 4, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. A connector assembly for containers used in sterile operations comprising: a connector having two ends and a flange formed thereon at a location which is intermediate said two ends; and an over-wrap bag enclosing one of said ends, said over-wrap bag being attached to said flange for maintaining sterility of said enclosed end.
2. The connector assembly of claim 1 further including another bag for enclosing said connector and said over-wrap bag for maintaining the sterility of said both ends of said connector assembly.
3. The connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said flange is curved.
4. The connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said flange is flat.
5. The connector assembly of claim 1 wherein the end of said connector which is not enclosed is attached to a large fluid-processing bag.
6. The connector assembly of claim 5 further including another bag enclosing said large fluid-processing bag, said connector and said over-wrap bag.
7. A sterile connector assembly comprising: a connector having two ends; a flange formed on said connector intermediate said two ends; a sealing bag attached to said flange

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enclosing one end of said connector; and a second bag enclosing the said connector and said sealing bag for double sealing said end of said connector enclosed by said sealing bag, whereby said second bag is open in a sterile field so that the exposed end of the connector may be attached to sterile tubing said other end of said connector remaining sealed in said sealing bag to maintain its sterility.

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said flange is curved.

11. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said flange is flat.

12. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said sealing bag is attached to said flange by a heat seal.

13. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said connector is a hose barb connector.

14. The sterile connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said over-wrap bag is a zipper-locking bag.

15. The sterile connector assembly of claim 14 wherein said over-wrap bag is heat sealed adjacent said zipper lock to prevent said zipper lock from opening unless said heat seal is cut away.